

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A marketing support system for allowing a supplier, ~~manufacturing and selling~~ which manufacturers and sells to at least one sales agency a mechanical component ~~such as one~~ having a rolling element and a sliding bearing, to support ~~a sales activity of a~~ the at least one sales agency selling said mechanical component to a purchaser, wherein

a supplier's communication device of the supplier is connected to an open network and comprises: ~~is provided with~~

technical information service means for providing technical information required to select said mechanical component; and

sales agency introduction means for introducing ~~[[a]]~~ the at least one sales agency selling said mechanical component, and

a ~~sales agency's~~ communication device of the at least one sales agency is connected to the open network and comprises: ~~is provided with~~

order processing means for taking an order from the purchaser to purchase for the mechanical component ~~from a purchaser~~ and for electronically performing processing ~~such as~~ the purchase order acceptance, ~~payment reclaim, and delivery, and~~

wherein the purchaser ~~gains access to~~ accesses the communication device of the supplier over the open network ~~so that the purchaser can~~ to select and purchase the mechanical component from one of the at least one sales agency.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 1, wherein the purchaser selects a responsible sales agency from the at least one sales agency to process the purchase order.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 1, wherein the supplier selects a responsible sales agency from the at least one sales agency to process the purchase order.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 3, wherein the communication device of the supplier is provided with means for receiving an inquiry for ~~[[a]]~~ the mechanical component from the purchaser, contents of the inquiry is are distributed over the open network and ~~thereby~~ thereafter consigned to an appropriate sales agency to be the responsible sales agency from the at least one sales agency determined in accordance with a region and a product number, and the appropriate sales agency processes the purchase order ~~performs processing such as payment reclaim and delivery of the mechanical component.~~

5. **(Original)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 1, wherein said technical information service means is provided with question reply means for receiving a technical question from the purchaser and allowing a responsible engineer of the supplier to send a reply to the question back to the purchaser.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 1, wherein said sales agency introduction means ~~is to display~~ displays a sales agency information list ~~having display items which~~ provides information of the at least a one sales agency including name, ~~[[a]]~~ the mechanical component ~~to be handled~~, an address of each sales agency, and a ~~place for~~ contact information.

7. **(Original)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 1, wherein the mechanical component is delivered after payment has been made.

8. **(Original)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 1, wherein an ID is issued for the inquiry from the purchaser when credit can be provided for the purchaser in accordance with background checks on the purchaser and the order from the purchaser is accepted in accordance with the ID.

9. **(Original)** The marketing support system for a mechanical component according to claim 1, wherein the inquiry from the purchaser is registered to a customer database and an order potential database.